



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Toshiaki OKABE et al.

Group Art Unit: 2176

Application No.: 09/725,765

Examiner: R. SINGH

Filed: November 30, 2000

Docket No.: 108001

For: DOCUMENT INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT APPARATUS AND METHOD

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants request review of the final rejection in the above-identified application.

No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reasons stated below.

I. Nature of the Appeal

Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are pending in this application.

An Office Action mailed November 14, 2006 finally rejects claims 1-5 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0177111 A1 to Egendorf et al. (Egendorf) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,689 to Yanaka et al. (Yanaka) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,947 to Bengston.

II. Asserted Combination Does Not Teach the "History Identifier" or "Linkage Information" Features Recited in the Claims

The Office Action, on page 5, acknowledges that Egendorf does not teach or suggest document information that includes a history identifier identifying an original and update or revision of a document or document set, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 8, 9, 13 and 14. Further, the Office Action acknowledges that Egendorf does not teach or suggest linkage information that includes links to an updated or

revised document or document set based on a history identifier, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claims 8, 9, 13 and 14. However, the Office Action asserts that Yanaka discloses such features in the Abstract and at col. 2-6.

The Office Action's reliance on Yanaka to teach "document information that includes a history identifier identifying an original and update or revision of a document or document set" and "linkage information that includes links to an updated or revised document or document set based on a history identifier" is based on an incorrect interpretation of Yanaka.

Yanaka, in the Abstract and at col. 2-6, cited by the Office Action, discloses a method of correctly detecting update contentions between databases in a distributed database system.

For example, as described in Yanaka, at col. 1, line 65 through col. 2, line 29, and with respect to Fig. 2, at col. 4, lines 1-36, and with respect to Fig. 9, at col. 6, lines 30-60, a primary replica database and a secondary replica database, in Yanaka, are each composed of sets of data. Each set of data represents an update unit within each of the respective primary and secondary databases.

For example, a set of data 201 includes: a data identifier 202 that uniquely identifies the set of data 201; a history identifier 203 that points to an update serial number history 207; and attribute data 204 that contains the actual data stored in data set 201. The update serial number history 207 contains: a node number 205 that identifies a computer originating an update; and an update counter 206 that stores a number indicative of the number of times set of data 201 has been updated.

As described in Yanaka at col. 6, line 30 through col. 7, line 49, update serial number history 207 associated with each set of data 201 supports a replication decision in which a data server decides whether or not it should update a set of data 201, stored within its database, to reflect a change in a corresponding set of data 201 reported by a remote data server. The history table allows the receiving database to determine whether the dataset received is more recent than data currently stored in the database.

In general, if the data server determines, e.g., based on the update serial number history 207, that the received set of data 201 is more recent than the corresponding set of data 201 in its local database, the local database is updated with the received set of data 201. If the data server determines, e.g., based on the update serial number history 207, that the received set of data 201 is not as recent as the corresponding set of data 201 in its local database, the local database is not updated with the received set of data 201.

The Office Action cites Yanaka at col. 2-6 and the Abstract, and asserts that Yanaka teaches (1) a history identifier identifying an original and update or revision of a document or

document set, and; (2) linkage information [that] includes links to the original and the update or revised document or document set based on the history identifier, as recited in claim 1. However, no such features are described in the passage cited.

For example, nowhere in the cited passage does Yanaka teach or suggest storing original as well as updates or revisions of a document or document set. Instead Yanaka teaches that a data set which is determined to be less current than a received data set is "updated" with the new received data set (e.g., see col. 6, lines 58-60). Nowhere does Yanaka teach or suggested that the previous version of the data set is saved, much less that the system in Yanaka maintains links to such previous versions of the data sets. For example, the data fields within update serial number history 207, i.e., node number 205 that identifies a computer originating an update, and an update counter 206 that stores a number indicative of the number of times set of data 201 has been updated, would not be suitable for maintaining links to such previous versions of the data sets, even if such previous versions were maintained.

Therefore, even if Yanaka were combined with Egendorf, the combination would not overcome the deficiency of Egendorf acknowledged by the Office Action.

III. Office Action Ignores Features Recited in the Claims

Further, independent claim 1 recites "the linkage information includes links to the original and the update or revised document or document set based on the history identifier and based on the status identifier that identifies a process step within one of the plurality of processes." Independent claims 8, 9, 13 and 14 recite a similar feature.

Nowhere does the Office Action assert, nor do any of the asserted references teach or suggest, a system with linkage information that includes links to the original and the update or revised document or document set based on a history identifier and based on a status identifier that identifies a process step within one of the plurality of processes, as recited in the claims.

Therefore, even if Yanaka were combined with Egendorf, the combination would not overcome the deficiency of Egendorf acknowledged by the Office Action.

IV. There Would Have Been No Motivation to Combine the Cited References

As addressed above, the Office Action asserts at page 6, second paragraph, that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate Yanaka's history identifier in the system of Egendorf because (1) it would have been desirable at the time of the invention to display any updates of data in one database to another so as to ensure that the latest contents were provided to all databases and (2)

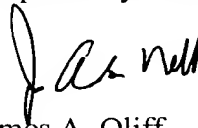
providing a history identifier of a document would ensure that the document set was up to date and contained the most recent revisions of documents as opposed to an outdated document.

However, the Office Action's reliance on the above-stated motivation for combination is misplaced. For example, in Egendorf, the category based hierarchy is specifically designed to allow information to be located in different databases. Therefore, there is no benefit to the system described in Egendorf to "display any updates of data in one database to another so as to ensure that the latest contents were provided to all databases," as asserted by the Office Action. Further, the category based hierarchy in Egendorf is specifically designed to facilitate locating information sources stored in remote databases. The respective different databases are responsible for the integrity of the content presented, not the system described in Egendorf. Therefore, to supplement the system described in Egendorf with features designed to ensure that the contents maintained by the respective databases for which the system in Egendorf maintains search information is outside the conceivable purpose of the system described in Egendorf, and/or would have changed the basic principle of operation.

V. **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, the Review Panel is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Egendorf in view of Yanaka and further in view of Bengston.

Respectfully submitted,



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